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Date 6/26/91

6 April 1945

HRP 89-2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In accordance with a memorandum of the President dated 5 April, copy attached, I am asking for your comments on the proposal to the President, for a central intelligence service contained in my memorandum of 18 November 1944.

I shall be grateful if you will give me on or before 20 April your comments upon the objectives and basic principles covered in my proposal.

After receipt of the replies, a meeting can be arranged with the chiefs of your foreign intelligence and internal security units to discuss the suggestions of the several agencies and to obtain a consensus of opinion pursuant to the President's wish.

In contributing your suggestions to the proposed central intelligence service, I hope you will keep in mind that the following principles underly my 18 November proposal:

1. Responsibility to the President with an Advisory Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, War and Navy, and such other members as the President may appoint.

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2. Wartime control of operations in military areas by JCS and Theater Commanders.

3. Maintenance of the integrity of operational intelligence and internal security functions of the several executive departments and agencies.

4. Integration of intelligence activities in fields of common concern, and synthesis and evaluation of intelligence required for national planning and security in peace and war.

5. No police or law enforcement function.

6. Independent budget under Congressional control.

7. Coordination of the existing facilities for collection, processing and dissemination of intelligence with a view to economy, efficiency and mutual advantage to the several agencies.

8. Bringing together specialized military and civilian personnel to reflect the needs and responsibilities of the several agencies on the national policy level.

William J. Donovan  
Director

Inclosures:

Memorandum of 5 April 1945  
from the President to Maj. General Donovan  
Memorandum of 18 November 1944 from  
W. J. Donovan to the President

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THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1945.

My dear General Donovan:

I have read your memorandum of April 6 and the accompanying memoranda to the President on the subject of a central intelligence service.

The objectives are not sufficiently clear to me to permit the expression of a firm opinion.

However, I must say that on the basis of my present information I am skeptical as to the necessity or propriety of establishing such an agency.

The burdens on the President are now monumental. We shouldn't add to them if we can avoid it.

Why couldn't the purposes be achieved by a better liaison between departments and agencies?

Sincerely,

/S/ H.N. Morgenthau

Major General William J. Donovan  
Director, Office of Strategic Services  
Washington, D. C.